

CONFIDENTIAL

4 March 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

Subject: Visit of the Chief, FBIB to FBIB West Coast and Pacific Installations during the period 21 January 1948 through 25 February 1948

1. The FBIB Stations

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by the Chief, FBIB during the periods indicated below. Appropriate action relative to routine matters noted as well as those listed below, which it is believed should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Director for Operations, was taken on the spot or has been initiated where approval by or coordination with other offices of CIA is necessary.

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a. [redacted] - 24 January 1948 and 19-22 February 1948.

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1. Construction at [redacted] is in its final stages. It is expected that the contractor will complete his work early in April. Immediately thereafter, FBIB engineers will complete the installation of remaining technical equipment. By mid-April the Station is expected to be ready for operation.

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2. Plans were formulated with the Chief of the West Coast Mission for the beginning of monitoring operations at [redacted] on 18 April 1948 and for the progressive movement of personnel [redacted] so as to cease monitoring [redacted] operations [redacted] on 8 May 1948. No coverage will be lost except a minimal amount during the period May 8 through

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12 when the last personnel to leave [redacted] will be enroute [redacted] to [redacted]

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3. Despite the housing shortage with which the West Coast staff is confronted at [redacted] only two employees of the present [redacted] are not transferring to [redacted]

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b. [redacted] - 26-29 January 1948 and 13-15 February 1948

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1. This Station is isolated almost completely from other activities of [redacted] since no armed forces installations remain on the [redacted] and it is on the opposite side of the [redacted] Island from clubs, and most other entertainment and recreational activities.

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2. The Americans stationed there have little association with the other Caucasian populace of the [redacted] This is believed to be because of the close relationship of [redacted] employees with Orientals which is almost unavoidable in an operation of this nature.

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3. Quarters are war-time hutments and are considered unsatisfactory.

4. The Camp is several miles from a good beach. The Chief of the Mission was instructed to explore the possibilities of opening a small swimming pool which is already within the Camp.

5. Unmarried employees participate in a mess at which they have an evening meal prepared for them. Breakfast and lunch are individually prepared. An additional mess attendant is to be provided at government expense to correct this unsatisfactory condition.

6. Despite these isolated and unsatisfactory conditions the morale of the employees in general is good. This is attributed to:

(a) About 25% are natives of the [redacted]

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(b) About 50% are natives of the [redacted]

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(c) The Americans there are able to save a substantial part of their salary.

7. Communications have deteriorated during recent months. During December communications were out 27% of the time, during January more than 24% of the time, and probably more than this during February. Arrangements have been made to send the teletype tape via [redacted] when communications are out. There it is picked up by G-2 courier and delivered to the Pacific Relay Center for transmission to Washington. Due to this excellent cooperation of G-2 at Ft. Shafter, Washington does not feel the full impact of the communication breakdowns. A conference was held with the Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Signal Service, G-2, and the Commanding General with a view to improving communication service. It is believed that it can and will be improved somewhat. However, support for FBIB is a considerable burden on the Signal Service and cannot be expected to be maintained without breaks in service.

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8. Conferences were held with G-2, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief of Staff and the Commanding General to discuss FBIB general plans and operations. This Headquarters is very enthusiastic about the FBIB operation and most willing and anxious to support us in any way possible.

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c. [redacted] - 1-13 February 1948

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1. It is desirable to rearrange office space in [redacted] so as to separate administrative functions from editorial and monitoring functions since many foreign nationals are working in this operation and it is practically impossible to discuss classified information in the

office without disclosing it to unauthorized persons. The necessary action is being taken.

2. An Administrative Assistant is necessary at an early date. The Chief of the Bureau at present must personally do his own typing in the preparation of any classified correspondence or information, including payrolls.

3. The capabilities of this Station have not been fully determined and, due to the limited staff and equipment, known capabilities are not fully exploited. The Chief of the Bureau is at present exploring exhaustively the capabilities of this Station, and the necessary action will be taken to exploit its capabilities fully until a major Far Eastern Station is established.

4. Foreign national linguists on the [redacted] staff are 25X1A paid by the [redacted] 25X1A Their salary is 25X1A such that it is extremely difficult for them, especially those with families, to live. As a result, many of these employees have other positions which detract from the overall efficiency of our organization. It may become necessary in the near future to supplement their salaries in order to retain these essential employees on our staff. The Chief of the [redacted] is exploring, with GHQ, the permissibility of supplementing these salaries in U. S. dollars deposited in a bank to be drawn against by the employee for purchases of food and clothing at the Foreign National Commissary without permitting the dollars to actually get into the hands of the employee.

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5. During this period the sites under consideration for the location of Far East Monitoring Station at [redacted] 25X1A [redacted] were visited. Observations, conclusions and recommendations, with reference to these sites were submitted in memorandum to Assistant Director for Operations, dated 1 March 1948, Subject: Major Factors to be Considered in Choosing Between [redacted] and 25X1A [redacted] for the Location of an FBIB Far East Monitoring Station.

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6. Brief and informal conferences were held with the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, the Chief Signal Officer, and Staff Officers in the G-4 Section of the Far East Command in which FBIB plans and operations were informally discussed.

2. Attached hereto, Tab A, is copy of a brief report of the visit of the Chief, FBIS to the Far East Command, submitted directly to G-2, FEC in accordance with his verbal request.

[redacted] 25X1A

L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

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CONFIDENTIAL
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

COPY

26 February 1948

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
General Headquarters, Far East Command
APO 500, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

FROM: Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

SUBJECT: Visit of the Chief, Foreign Broadcast Information Service to the Far East Command

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1. In accordance with verbal request of [redacted] submitted herein brief report of my visit to the Far East Command during the period February 1-12, 1948.

2. My mission was:

a. To inspect the FBIS operation in [redacted] 25X1A

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b. To visit the [redacted] on [redacted] both of which are under consideration for the possible establishment of a Far Eastern Foreign Broadcast Information Service monitoring post.

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c. To visit [redacted] in order to discuss with occupation authorities at that location the service being rendered by FBIS.

3. Itinerary:

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a. I visited [redacted] on 3 and 4 February 1948 where I inspected the site previously tested by an FBIS survey team, and discussed with the [redacted] staff the general aspects of establishing a monitoring station at that location. Travel to and from [redacted] was performed by Troop Carrier Air Transport.

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b. I visited [redacted] on 6 and 7 February 1948 where I inspected the site previously tested by an FBIS survey team, and discussed with the Commanding Officer 34th Inf. Regt. and members of his staff

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Tab. A

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the general aspects of establishing a monitoring station at that location. Travel from [] to [] and return was performed by Troop Carrier Air Transport and from [] [] and return by Artillery Liaison plane furnished by the 24th Division Artillery. 25X1A

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c. Due to the limited time available the proposed trip to [] was cancelled. It is believed that a visit to [] by the Chief of the FBIS [] Bureau would probably improve the local service, and it is suggested that he make such a visit in the near future. 25X1A

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d. The remainder of my time was spent in [] observing the local FBIS operations to include the recently implemented arrangement at [] which makes possible the reception of some programs which could not formerly be received with the limited and inadequate facilities in downtown [] and discussing FBIS operations in this area with appropriate staff officers at GHQ. 25X1A

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4. General:

25X1A a. The FBIS [] is presently sending to Washington via teletype a daily selected file of more than 9,000 words, approximately 20% of which is obtained from [] Services in both [] and from Radio [] broadcasts, the latter being almost negligible. The remaining 80% is obtained by monitoring foreign radio transmitters in Russia, Korea, China and Southeast Asia. 25X1A

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25X1A b. Service being provided the Far East Command locally includes the sending to G-2, United States Armed Forces in [] a selected daily file of approximately 4,500 words of intercepts of particular interest to that Command, furnishing to G-2 Far East Command two complete copies of the outgoing file of FBIS radio intercepts, and sending from FBIS stations in [] and [] via airmail an average of 2,000 words per day of intercepts from China, S. E. Asia, and Russia which are of interest to the Far East Command, but which are not monitored in [] 25X1A

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5. Pending establishment of a major Far Eastern monitoring station, which at best will take several months, it is our desire to exploit to the fullest possible extent the limited capabilities of the [] To this end the Chief of the [] has been 25X1A

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instructed to explore exhaustively the possibilities of increasing our interim coverage of the critical Far Eastern areas which cannot be monitored from other FBIS posts.

6. I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the many courtesies extended to me during my visit by your office, and other members of the Far East Command. Your invaluable assistance enabled me to accomplish the maximum in a minimum of time. I assure you that your cooperation is genuinely appreciated by the FBIS as well as our parent agency.

7. Finally I wish to assure you that the FBIS aim is to furnish the maximum amount of information obtained from foreign radio broadcasts to the maximum number of U. S. Government intelligence agencies in a minimum of time, and that any suggestions you may have at any time as to how we may improve our service will be greatly appreciated.

L. K. WHITE

~~RESTRICTED~~

24 December 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

ATTENTION: Executive for Administration + Management

The following message from the Chief Engineer in charge of construction at the new FBIB station at [redacted] has been received by the Chief, FBIB:

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"Walter Gelb, publisher of Tarzana Herald, asking if any statement on [redacted] to local press permissible. Says he expects to run article in Tarzana Herald in near future. Gelb is former OSS and has worked at [redacted] Editorial Department under loan to FBIB from OSS."

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To avoid possible undesirable speculation by the press which may be prompted by refusal to comment on this project, it is recommended that the press release quoted below, which does not publicly associate this project with the Central Intelligence Agency, be released on or about January 10, 1948 to the following offices in Los Angeles, California:

Tarzana Herald
Associated Press
United Press
International News Service

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EDWIN L. SIBERT
Brigadier General, USA
Assistant Director for Operations

LW:odr

OO/FB

cc: Addressee - orig. & 1
Office of Operations - 2
Return to Chief, FBIB - 1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

AGENCY

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ILLEGIB

Box 777

STATINTL

15 December 1947

Via Air Mail

Brigadier General Edwin L. Sibert
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General:

STATINTL

I am just completing my inspection of the [] and [] stations. I am scheduled to depart from Los Angeles at 8:10 A.M. tomorrow and arrive in Memphis tomorrow night where I plan to stop for two days to visit with my parents. Unless my itinerary is unexpectedly changed, I shall be in the office on Friday morning.

STATINTL

This has been a most profitable trip for me and I believe also for the personnel at these stations. They had many questions to ask which had seemed purely routine to us in Washington, and many things from an operational standpoint have come to my attention that I think can be improved. I have written [] about a number of things which I thought he could initiate action on and I could follow up when I return.

STATINTL

Generally speaking I have been extremely well impressed with this staff. If we in Washington could even approach the esprit de corps and teamwork that is evidenced here, our worries would be considerably fewer.

I called on Colonel A. T. W. Moore, Los Angeles District Engineer, this morning to express our appreciation to him and his staff for handling our job. He sends his kindest regards to you.

STATINTL

STATINTL

STATINTL

The [] seems to be shaping up at last. All funds have finally been allocated and the last contract let. The contractor who is to move the building from [] has 75 days to complete the job. Other work here has reached the stage where we can plan on moving just as soon as he completes his job. The District Engineers hope and believe the contractor will not utilize the full 75 days allowed. Barring unforeseen developments I

General Sibert

- 2 -

15 December 1947

believe we will be operative here on or about March 1st. Everything indicates that this will be an exceptionally fine and valuable station.

Please give my best to [redacted]

STATINTL

Sincerely,

[redacted]

L. K. WHITE
Chief, FBIB

STATINTL